



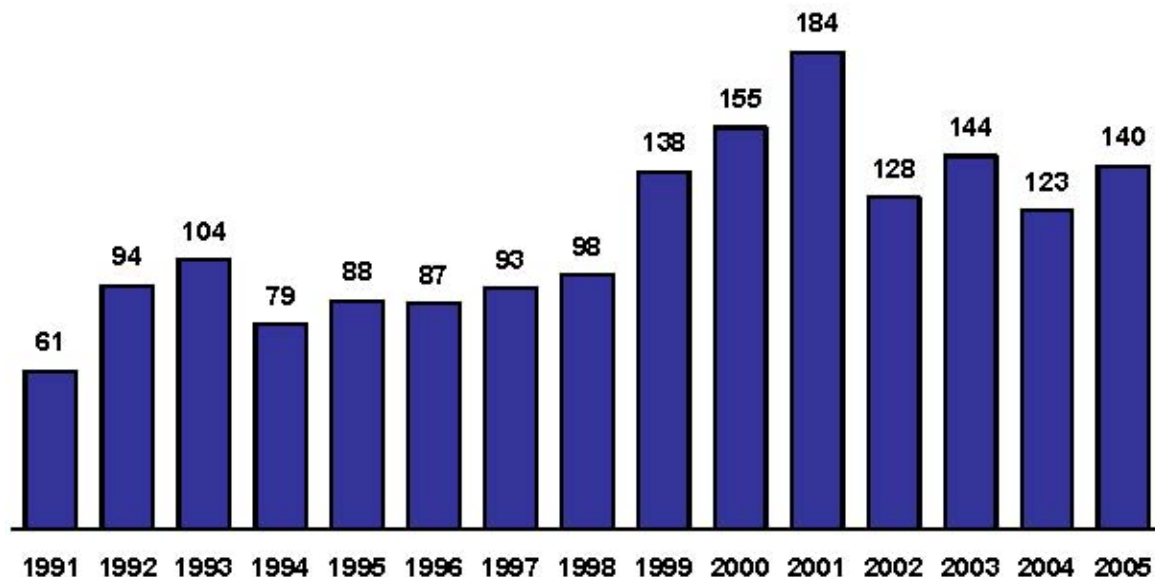
## Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office 2005 Firework Injuries and Fires

After a 10 percent decrease in 2004, firework-related injuries increased in 2005. Nebraska hospitals reported 140 injuries compared with 123 in 2004. The majority of the injuries occurred between July 1 and 5, with almost half of all injuries happening on July 4. Of the 115 injuries where times were reported all but four of the injuries occurred between noon and midnight. Over twenty percent of the injuries occurred in Omaha although most fireworks are illegal.

The majority of injuries were again first and second-degree burns. Most injuries involved the eyes, head and face, with hands and fingers being the next most commonly injured areas of the body.

The following graph shows the number of injuries for the last 15 years. The 1999 total includes nine injuries that occurred during the millennium firework season.

### Firework Injuries



The majority of people injured were either in the vicinity of the firework when it went off or holding the device when it discharged. The number of people injured at public displays decreased again from 5 in 2004 to 3 in 2005. Public displays are the safest way to view fireworks.

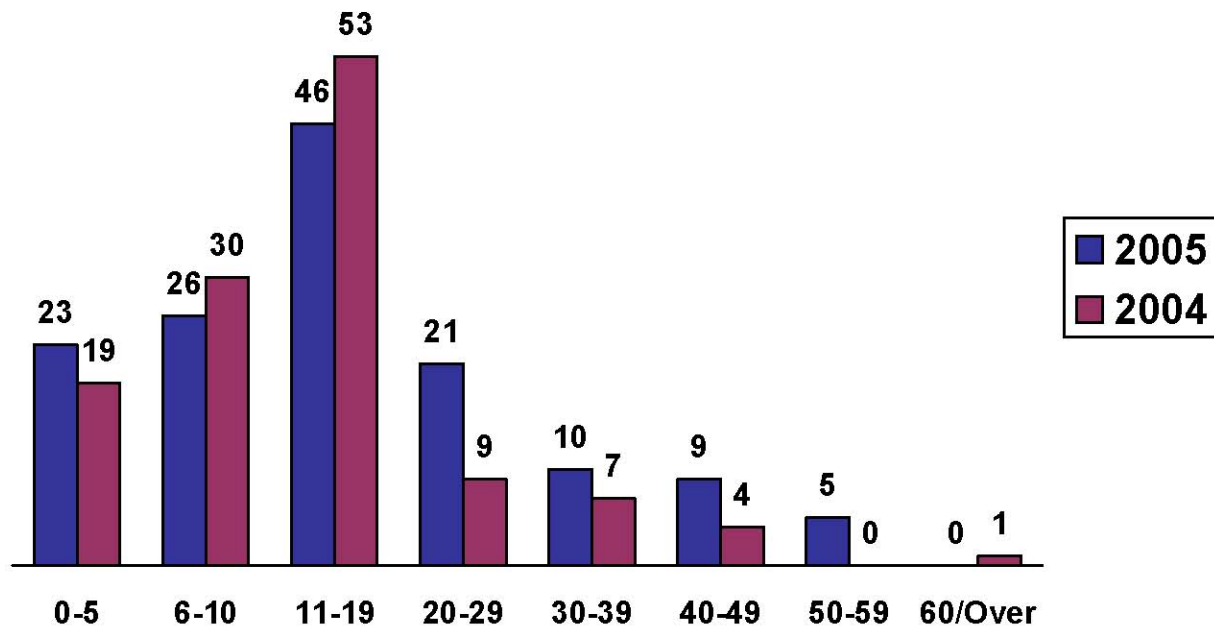
Firecrackers and sparklers cause the most injuries. The number of injuries from illegal

fireworks (M-80's; cherry bombs; bottle, sky and missile rockets) increased from 15 in 2004 to 24 in 2005.

DEVICE	2004	2005	DEVICE	2004	2005
Base Fountain	8	3	Other	18	21
Bottle Rocket	4	5	Parachute	2	2
Cherry Bomb	1	0	Party Popper	1	0
Cone Fountain	0	2	Punk	2	5
Firecracker	25	22	Roman Candle	15	11
Ground Spinner	1	2	Sky Rocket	2	6
Handle Fountain	1	3	Smoke Bomb	7	8
Homemade	5	1	Sparkler	10	18
M-80	3	7	Unknown	12	18
Missile Rocket	5	6	Wheel	1	0

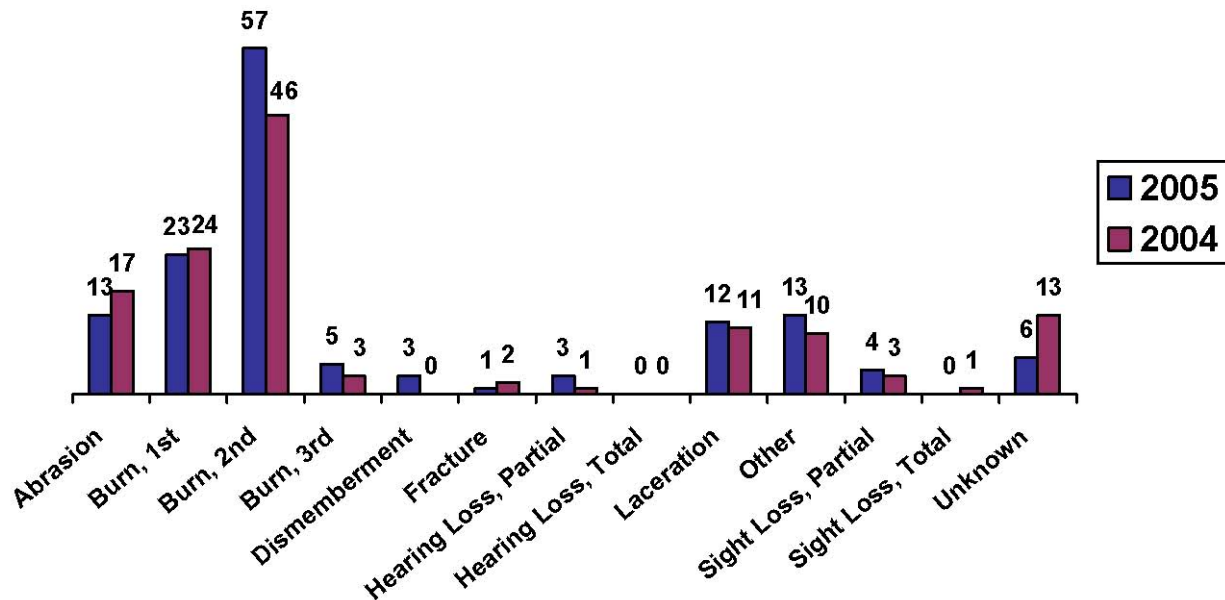
Two-thirds of the reported injuries occurred to children and young adults (age 19 and under). Most injuries involve males (93) than females (38). The sex of nine injured people was not given.

## Firework Injuries by Age



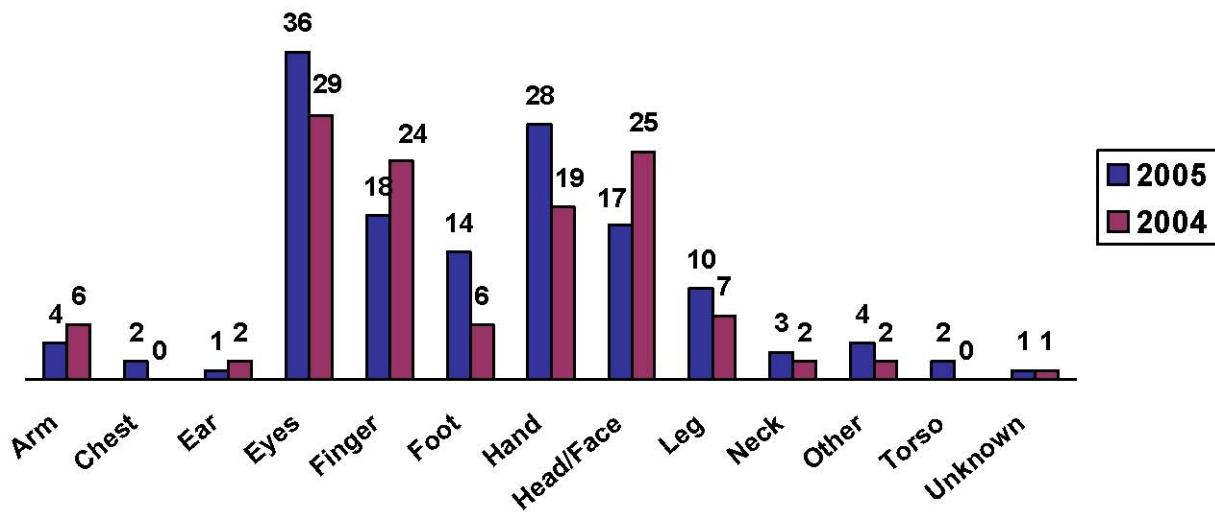
# Firework Injuries

## Type of Injuries



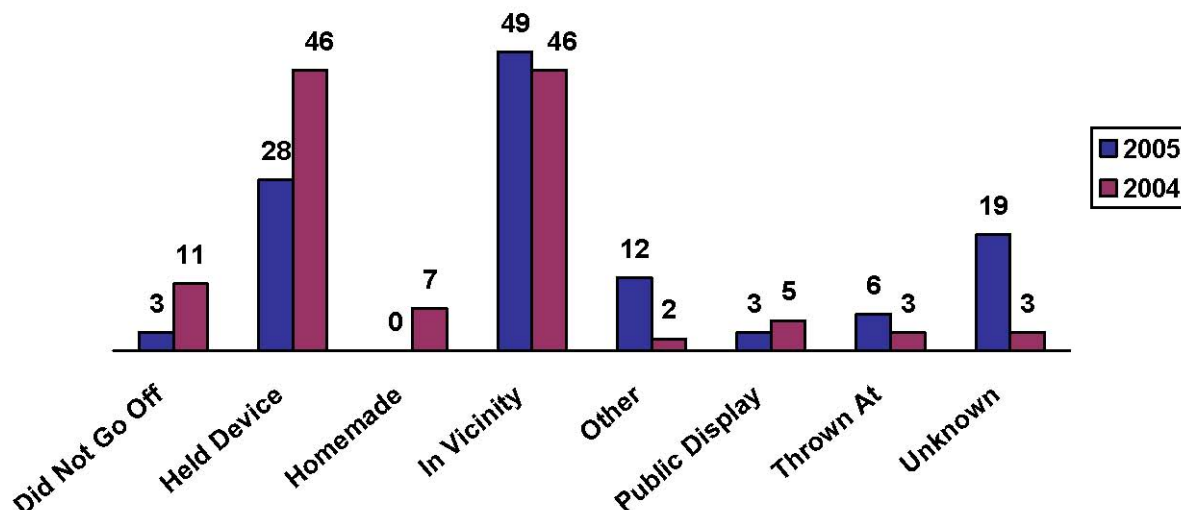
# Firework Injuries

## Body Part Injured



# Firework Injuries

## Reason for Injury



Some reasons given for the injuries are:

- Misdirected - didn't go up as it should have.
- Device went off right after touching punk to fuse - exploded or malfunctioned
- Firework fell over.
- Intentional shooting of a roman candle at patient by a neighbor child who they were feuding with
- Lit it and was bending over to set it down and it went off.
- Child under the age of 10 grabbed a snake that patient though was out.
- Device thrown too close to patient - exploded on ground and debris hit patient.
- Had just thrown it after lighting fuse - exploded 1/2 inch away from fingers.
- Firework ignited by someone else, ricocheted off parking lot pavement into eye.
- Sparkler put into tube-something then blew up.
- Child under the age of 5 touched smoke bomb while still hot.
- Cone fireworks went off, and then stopped; child ran up to cone thinking it was finished and it went off again.
- Put bottle rocket in pipe, lit the firework and a spark hit patient in eye
- Lit bottle rocket while holding it. Firework blew backwards into hand.
- Barefoot, stepped on hot sparkler.
- Turned unexpectedly and walked into lit punk.
- Brick of black cats exploded while lighting.
- Child lighting firework with short fuse standing over it looking down on to it and it exploded in face
- Parent lit smoke bomb that included sparklers. Sparkler went over top, landed on left upper back area igniting shirt. Mother, standing with patient, patted out flames. Singed hair, burn to upper back area and neck.
- Patient poured the powder out of a 2" mortar into a mortar tube then put a lit gorilla thunder firecracker (1.5") into the powder. The powder exploded causing burns from above eyebrows down to chin including center of forehead and both eyes.

## FIREWORK INJURIES AND WHERE THEY OCCURRED

CITY		COUNTY	
Name	Number	Name	Number
Alvo	1	Adams	4
Ansley	1	Boyd	1
Ashland	1	Buffalo	1
Beatrice	4	Burt	1
Bellevue	4	Cass	2
Bladen	1	Cheyenne	3
Bridgeport	1	Clay	1
Chadron	2	Cuming	1
Chambers	2	Custer	2
Clarks	1	Dawes	2
Columbus	1	Dawson	2
Cozad	2	Dodge	6
Creighton	1	Douglas	34
Crete	1	Gage	4
Elkhorn	1	Hall	5
Falls City	1	Holt	3
Fremont	6	Keith	2
Friend	1	Knox	1
Gering	1	Lancaster	16
Gordon	1	Madison	3
Grand Island	5	Merrick	1
Grant	1	Morrill	1
Gretna	1	Perkins	2
Harvard	1	Platte	1
Hastings	4	Richardson	1
Kearney	1	Saline	2
LaVista	2	Sarpy	10
Lincoln	16	Saunders	1
Lynch	1	Scotts Bluff	3
Macy	2	Sheridan	1
Madrid	1	Thurston	6
Martn Bay	1	Washington	1
Norfolk	3	Wayne	1
Oakland	1	Webster	1
Ogallala	1	York	1
Omaha	32	Unknown	13
O'Neill	1		
Papillion	3		
Pender	1		
Ralston	1		
Sargent	1		
Scottsbluff	2		
Sidney	3		
South Bend	1		
Wayne	1		
West Point	1		
Winnebago	3		
York	1		
Unknown	14		